

# Region to defend development charges bylaw at OMB hearing

Halton Region's development charges (DC) bylaw will be vigorously defended when it goes before the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) later this month.

Last week, regional council approved a resolution in a 21-1 vote directing staff to take any and all action necessary to defend the Region's position and interests to the OMB when it comes to its DCs bylaw.

The resolution was passed, with only Burlington Councillor Jack Dennison voting against it, following a confidential session where councillors received a legal update by Regional staff on the appeals of the DCs bylaw, which was approved by council last April.

The OMB will begin hearing the appeals put forward by developers on February 25 at the Halton Regional Centre over the course of 10 days.

In reading out the resolution, which was moved by Oakville Mayor Rob Burton and seconded by Milton Local and Regional Councillor Colin Best, Regional Chair Gary Carr said defending its DCs bylaw will ensure that growth continues to pay for itself and that existing taxpayers and businesses aren't impacted by the costs associated with new residential growth beyond the minimum requirement by provincial legislation.

It will also ensure the Region's AAA Credit rating is maintained and isn't impacted in any way by the cost of new growth in the region, he read.

DCs are imposed on lands being developed to recover growth-related costs associated with the infrastructure that's needed and pays for services like water and wastewater, roads, policing, social housing and services for seniors.

# Councillor running for FCM VP position

Regional council unanimously supported Halton Hills Regional Councillor Clark Somerville's intention to run for the third vice-president position of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) at its meeting last week. Somerville has served as a board member for the organization, which acts as a national voice for Canadian municipalities, for five years and is one of 11 elected to serve Ontario. The election will take place at the FCM annual conference in June.

## Program funding increased

Regional council approved an adjustment to the 2013 Public Health operating budget to include \$50,000 of provincial funding for the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program. The program ensures all families have access to effective and consistent early intervention. It promotes optimal physical, cognitive, com-

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municative and psychosocial development of children prenatal to age three.

## Protocol in works for construction of radio-communications structures

Regional staff are reviewing local municipal protocols for the construction of radiocommunications structures like cell phone towers to develop a protocol for Regional staff when they review proposals for the construction of third-party radiocommunications structures.

## Leaf waste in rural hamlets examined

Regional staff have been asked to prepare a report looking at reduced rates for residents to drop off organic and leaf waste at the landfill site or to have pick-up in mature hamlets.



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